

Circ.: e. 27,538

CPYRGHT

Front Page Edit Page Other Page

Date:

## Scientist Shortage Imperils Atom Plans, Puts Us Behind Russia, Congress Report Says

WASHINGTON —A congressional panel has reported that this country is wasting 80 per cent of its potential scientific and engineering manpower.

Such wastage, the group said, is occurring despite evidence that the Soviet Union is now threatening Free World superiority in the sciences and engineering.

### Soviet Has More

Already, the report said, the Soviet Union has surpassed this country in the number of scientists and engineers available. The United States has a total of 760,000, it said. Russia has 890,000, more than three-fourths the number in this country and Western Europe combined.

The report was issued by a joint Senate-House atomic energy subcommittee headed by Rep. Melvin Price (D-Ill.).

The subcommittee sought to offset any idea that the Russians are sacrificing quality in education to attain high output.

Soviet training "is of a high

order and compares favorably with the best in the United States and Europe," the report said.

The subcommittee was especially critical of the wastage of potential manpower in this country. It put the blame largely on defects in the nation's educational system.

Of all high school graduates qualified for higher education in science or technology, 50 per cent are lost by leaving school to earn a living, it said.

Of the half that enters college, scarcely 40 per cent are graduated.

The subcommittee cited expert opinion that the high rate of failure in American colleges was traceable to these things:

Inadequate training and discipline in high schools, where the study of mathematics and science was being sacrificed increasingly to the trend for "more general education."

### Government Prodded

The college's failure to increase facilities and encourage students to complete their courses.

Deficiencies in military draft policies, which result in the military service's taking potential scientists and technologists.

In a preface to the report, Mr. Price suggested that the federal government take the lead to stop the trend.

He proposed federal aid for the expansion of science departments and engineering schools and government scholarships for young people qualified in these fields.

It cited testimony by Allen W. Dulles, director of the Central Intelligence Agency. He has estimated that in this decade Russia would graduate 1,200,000 in the sciences while the United States would graduate only 900,000.

In 1954, the group noted, Russia graduated 53,000 engineers with 5½ years of training, including three years of close specialization. In 1955, it estimated, the Soviet graduated 63,000.

The United States, by comparison, graduated only 22,000 engineers in 1954, the subcommittee said.